

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-119. Please add new claims 120-128 to the application. Please replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application with the following list of claims.

1-119. (cancelled)

120. (new) A reservation system for private aircraft, comprising:

a reservation service operated by a reservation service owner;

an airplane operated by a private airplane owner, said airplane owner independent of said reservation service owner;

said reservation service to receive electronically from said airplane owner a flight availability for said airplane, said flight availability including a departure location, departure time constraints, and a minimum total payment required to reserve said airplane, said minimum total payment expressed as a function of available seats and price per seat;

said reservation service to post said flight availability on an electronic medium;

said reservation service to receive electronically a reservation bid from a passenger, said passenger independent of said reservation service owner and said airplane owner, said reservation bid including an arrival location and a payment offer;

said reservation service to reserve said flight availability and to accept said reservation bid if said reservation service has matched a number of reservation bids with said flight availability such that said minimum total payment requirement is met;

said reservation service to transmit electronically to said airplane owner said reserved flight availability;

said reservation service to transmit electronically to said passenger said accepted reservation bid;

said reservation service to transmit electronically to said airplane owner a final passenger list and a final flight schedule that is substantially consistent with said departure time constraints, said departure location, and said arrival location;

said airplane to fly said passenger on a route from said departure location to said arrival location substantially according to said final flight schedule;

said reservation service to collect a payment from said passenger, said payment corresponding to said payment offer; and

said reservation service to transfer said collected payment to said airplane owner.

121. (new) The reservation system of claim 120, further comprising:

said reservation service to terminate said flight availability and to refuse said reservation bid if said reservation service fails to match a number of reservation bids with said flight availability such that said minimum total payment requirement is met.

122. (new) A system for reserving seats on private aircraft, comprising:

an airplane in possession and control of a private airplane owner, said airplane having a predetermined number of available seats;

an Internet-based reservation service in possession and control of a reservation service owner; said reservation service owner independent of said airplane owner;

a passenger in electronic communication with said reservation service, said passenger independent of said reservation service and said airplane owner;

said airplane owner to transmit electronically to said reservation service a flight availability for said airplane, said flight availability including a departure location, a departure time, a destination location, and a minimum number of passengers required to reserve said airplane;

said reservation service to post said flight availability on an Internet web site;

said passenger to transmit electronically to said reservation service a reservation offer responsive to said posted flight availability;

said reservation service to confirm said flight availability and to accept said reservation offer if said reservation service has received a number of responsive reservation offers equal to said minimum number of passengers required to reserve said airplane;

said reservation service to transmit electronically to said airplane owner a notification that said flight availability has been confirmed;

said reservation service to transmit electronically to said passenger a notification that said reservation offer has been accepted; and

said airplane to fly said passenger on a route from said departure location to said destination location substantially according to said departure time.

123. (new) The system of claim 122, further comprising:

said reservation service to terminate said flight availability and to refuse said reservation offer if said reservation service fails to receive a number of responsive reservation offers equal to said minimum number of passengers required to reserve said airplane.

124. (new) A method of booking reservations on a private aircraft, comprising:
receiving an aircraft availability from a private aircraft owner, said availability including an origin, departure-arrival constraints and seating constraints;
posting said availability on an electronic medium;
receiving a reservation bid from a passenger, said reservation bid responsive to said posted availability;
accepting said reservation bid when said reservation bid plus a number of additional passenger reservation bids exceeds a predetermined profitability threshold;
communicating electronically said acceptance to said aircraft owner; and
communicating electronically said acceptance to said passenger.

125. (new) The method of claim 124, further comprising:
accepting said additional passenger reservation bids.

126. (new) The method of claim 124, wherein said profitability threshold is expressed as minimum number of passengers.

127. (new) The method of claim 124, wherein said profitability threshold is expressed as a function of seats and price per seat.

128. (new) The method of claim 124, further comprising:
refusing said reservation bid when said reservation bid plus said number of additional passenger reservation bids fails to exceed said predetermined profitability threshold.
